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India beat Pakistan by 6 wickets

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سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in www.magzter.com 7 OCTOBER 2024 | MONDAY | BENGALURU | 3 RABI UL SANI, 1446 AH Vol 4 | Issue No 254 | Pages: 8

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Maldives Prez Muizzu meets Maldivian diaspora in Delhi

Muizzu is on a 4-day visit upon the official invitation by Prez

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed on Sunday, interacted with the Maldivian community residing in New Delhi.

During the interaction, they inquired about the community's well being, listened to their concerns and challenges, and reaffirmed the administration's dedication to addressing the issues.

"This evening, President His Excellency Dr @MMuizzu and First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed engaged with the Maldivian community residing in New Delhi, India," the President's Office of Maldives said on X. Muizzu also met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, wh

"Jaishankar expressed his pleasure in welcoming the President to India, for the state visit. President Dr Muizzu conveyed his gratitude to the Indian government for the warm welcome extended to him and his delegation upon arrival," according to the press release from the President's Office of Maldives.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during a meeting, in New Delhi on Sunday ***PHOTO: PTI***

At the meeting, Jaishankar and Muizzu spoke extensively on fostering and maintaining good ties between the two countries, Maldives Foreign Ministry said in a release.

The two sides reviewed the progress of current initiatives supported by the Government of India and discussed exploring additional avenues which both countries see as mutual benefits in line with the current development priorities of the Maldives. Providing affordable housing as well as quality healthcare services, tourism promotion, and expanding fisheries and agriculture sectors across the country were flagged as key areas of focus that largely impact the welfare of the people of the Maldives, the release added. He was welcomed by Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Kiriti Vardhan Singh. Muizzu's visit to India, from 6-10 October, has come upon the official invitation of President Droupadi Murmu. This is his second visit to India after attending the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this June. *—PTI*

- At the meeting, Jaishankar and Muizzu spoke on fostering and maintaining good ties between the two countries, Maldives Foreign Ministry said in a release

'UN A BYSTANDER'

UN like old firm, not keeping up with market: EAM

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

PHOTO: PTI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space.

During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the minister said.

In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come.

Jaishankar took part in the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics.

"So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of paradoxical one, ballast as well," Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka.

Asked about his upcoming visit to Pakistan to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart.

In his response to a query on the United Nations' role amid the changing global scenario, he took a rather critical view of the world body that was born in 1945 after the Second World War. Initially, it had 50 countries, which has grown over these years to nearly four times.

So, what is happening, as it did during Covid also, countries did their own thing such as the initiative like Covax that was done by a group of countries, the minister said. "When it comes to big issues of the day, you have an increasing combination of countries coming together to agree to do something." *—PTI*

> **When it comes to big issues of the day, you have an increasing combination of countries coming together to agree to do something**
>
> -S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

CITY SINKS AGAIN

Residents of Kendriya Vihar at Yelahanka, Bengaluru, cross a waterlogged road following heavy rainfalls on Sunday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*** ***>>>More on Page 2***

10 CHILDREN DROWN WHILE BATHING IN BIHAR

KAITHAR, 6 OCT

At least 10 children drowned while bathing in Bihar's Rohtas and Katihar districts on Sunday, officials said.

One child was missing while another was rescued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in Rohtas, they said.

Six children aged around 10-12 drowned while bathing in Sone river in Rohtas, District Magistrate Udita Singh told PTI. The incident took place in Tumba village when eight children were taking a bath in the morning. According to villagers, the children slipped into deep waters, Singh said.

Meanwhile, in Katihar, four children drowned while bathing in a pond in Saraiya area, under the jurisdiction of Kursela police station, an officer said. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased, an official statement said. *—PTI*

5 die at IAF's Chennai airshow, 100 hospitalised

CHENNAI, 6 OCT

At least five spectators were killed and nearly 100 were hospitalised due to dehydration at Indian Air Force's (IAF) air show at Chennai's Marina Beach on Sunday. Around 93 attendees were hospitalised due to heatstroke and dehydration, according to Tamil Nadu health department. The air show, intended to be a thrilling display of the Indian Air Force's aerial prowess, turned tragic as the combination of high temperatures and overcrowding overwhelmed attendees. The Lighthouse metro station nearby and the Chennai MRTS railway station at Velachery, which serves as the closest junction connecting Chintadripet near the Marina, were swarmed by several hundreds of people and many found it difficult to even get a foothold to stand on the platform. Despite this, many risked journeying while others had to miss the train. The police had to step in to clear the traffic to allow three ambulances to reach the hospital, he said. The arterial roads from Marina connecting various parts of the city were affected by traffic snarls and the vehicles remained stationary for several minutes at a spot. ***—Agencies***

Cabinet will discuss caste census, says Parameshwara

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said the government has decided to place the much awaited Socio-Economic and Education Survey report, popularly known as the "caste census" before the Cabinet, where it will be discussed and decided whether to table it in the legislature or to make it public directly. State Commission for Backward Classes under its then Chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde on 29 February, had submitted the report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The report was submitted amid objections by certain sections of society and also within the ruling Congress. The two dominant communities -- Vokkaliags and Lingayats -- have expressed reservations about the survey, calling it "unscientific", and have demanded that it be rejected and a fresh survey be conducted. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad asserted that the caste census report should be made public saying, it is necessary for the all round development. ***—PTI***
>>>More on Page 2

Shame on France: Netanyahu on embargo call

TEL AVIV, 6 OCT

Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, said that "all civilised countries" should be standing firmly by Israel's side as it "fights the forces of barbarism" led by Iran, as he dubbed French President Emmanuel Macron's call for an arms embargo against Israel a "shame."

In a video message on Saturday, Netanyahu called it a disgrace that "the axis of terror stands together, but countries that supposedly oppose this terror axis call for an arms embargo on Israel."

Benjamin Netanyahu ***PHOTO: PTI***

"As Israel fights the forces of barbarism led by Iran, all civilised countries should be standing firmly by Israel's side. Yet President Macron and some other western leaders are now calling for an arms embargo against Israel. Shame on them. Is Iran imposing an arms embargo on Hezbollah, on the Houthis, on Hamas and on its other proxies? Of course not. The axis of terror stands together, but countries that supposedly oppose this terror axis call for an arms embargo on Israel. What a disgrace," he said.

Netanyahu, in his message, said that Israel is "defending itself on seven fronts against the enemies of civilisation."

Netanyahu affirmed that Israel will win with or without the support of western countries. He added that Israel will not stop till they win. Macron's office stressed that "France is Israel's steadfast friend" after Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dubbed Macron's call for arms embargo a "disgrace", the Times of Israel reported on Sunday. According to the Times of Israel, the Elysee stressed that Macron "supports Israel's security and demonstrates it." *—ANI*
>>>More on Page 6

Bizman missing, car found near Mangaluru bridge

MANGALURU, 6 OCT

Mumtaz Ali, brother of former MLA Mohiuddin Bawa, has been reported missing since Sunday morning, police said.

His car was found abandoned on the Kullur Bridge in a damaged condition, they said.

The incident has sparked concern following a WhatsApp message he sent to his daughter stating, "I will not come back."

Ali, a prominent businessman and chairman of the Misbah Group of Educational Institutions, is a well-known figure in the local community.

His disappearance has prompted a large-scale search operation, with family members, including Mohiuddin Bawa, present at the scene.

City Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal confirmed the launch of a formal investigation into the case.

Authorities are exploring the possibility that Ali may have jumped from the bridge.

According to preliminary findings, the businessman left his residence in his vehicle around 3am on Sunday and went around the city before parking near the Kullur Bridge around 5am.

Alarmed by his last communication, his daughter immediately contacted the local police.

Mumtaz Ali
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

- Search efforts are being led by teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Coast Guard, combing the river to find whether Ali jumped or foul play may be involved

Search efforts are being led by teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Coast Guard, combing the river to find whether Ali jumped or foul play may be involved.

Fire and rescue services and swimming experts have also been mobilised in the search. Senior police officials are closely monitoring the investigation. *—PTI*

STAY ALERT!

CBI, ED don't make arrests online, says cyber security agency

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), police, customs, Enforcement Directorate or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'digital arrest' crimes in the country.

Terming it a scam, the federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet.

"Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Custom/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory issued on Saturday.

The advisory depicted the logos of social media platforms like WhatsApp and Skype to showcase that calls for such scams are made using such platforms.

These social media platforms have said in the past that they are coordinating with cyber security agencies of the government to provide users enhanced safety against such crimes.

The I4C urged people to report such crimes at the central helpline number 1930 or the website -- www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Digital arrest is the name given to a cybercrime technique where fraudsters send an SMS or make video calls to a person posing as law enforcement agency officials fraudulently claiming that the individual or his close family members have been caught by a government investigative agency in a criminal activity like drugs trafficking or money laundering.

The cybercriminal subsequently confines the person to their premises by asking them to keep their mobile phone cameras on as part of a 'digital arrest' and then seek money through online transfer to bail the victim out of this situation.

A good number of these new-age cybercrimes are virtually reported every day from various parts of the country. *—PTI*

The federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet ***PHOTO: PTI***

PHOTO: PTI

Minister urges parents to enroll kids in govt schools

MYSURU, 6 OCT

Minister of School Education and Literacy, Madhu S Bangarappa, on Sunday encouraged parents to enroll their children in State-run government schools, assuring that the government has implemented measures to ensure quality education for students Speaking at the inauguration of the Children's Dasara celebrations held at JK Grounds in Mysuru, he highlighted the recruitment of highly qualified, meritorious teachers in government schools to deliver quality education. He further said that these schools provide free uniforms, mid-day meals, textbooks, shoes, and other essential facilities to students. For the physical and mental growth of the students the State government distributes eggs six days a week, along with bananas and groundnut sweets, as part of the nutrition programme he said. Currently, the department supplies eggs to 57 lakh students from classes 1 to 10 as the demand for eggs, along with mid-day meals and milk, has increased, Bangarappa noted. He also mentioned that the government recently recruited 12,500 teachers to strengthen the State's government schools. Children from various government schools showcased their talent through dance performances and exhibited their skills in science and other model exhibitions following the event. *—Salar News*

ED raids across State in Pearl Agro case

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) conducted search operations at 44 locations across Karnataka, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Telengana, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the case of Pearl Agro Corporation Limited (PACL) and its group, the agency said. The ED said that during the search operations, various incriminating documents were recovered and seized. "ED, Delhi Zonal office has conducted search operations under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 at 44 locations across Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Telengana, Karnataka, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Uttrakhand on 04.10.2024 in the case of M/s Pearl Agro Corporation Limited (PACL) and its group. During the search operations, various incriminating documents were recovered and seized," ED said in a post on X on Saturday. Earlier, ED launched a series of raids across Kolkata, Punjab, Delhi, and Mumbai in a chit fund case on Friday. As per the source's privy to the move, the agency is targeting over two dozen locations in Kolkata, Punjab, Delhi, and Mumbai. This extensive operation was part of an ongoing investigation into a notorious chit-fund case linked to money laundering activities. *—ANI*

The heavy downpour, triggered by the turf effect of the Bay of Bengal, has caused extensive flooding, uprooted trees, and damaged infrastructure, leaving residents and authorities in the City scrambling to cope with the aftermath. BBMP emergency teams including tree clearance squads, were deployed to remove debris following the heavy rainfall **PHOTOS: MOHAMMED ASAD**

WATERLOGGED ROADS, WALL COLLAPSES PLAGUE CITY

7-foot-high compound wall collapsed due to the heavy rain in Binnipet

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

Bengaluru has been hit hard by heavy rains over the past few days, leading to widespread chaos across the City. The heavy downpour, triggered by the turf effect of the Bay of Bengal, has caused extensive flooding, uprooted trees, and damaged infrastructure, leaving residents and authorities scrambling to cope with the aftermath.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) reported that 15 trees and 44 branches across the City were washed away due to the heavy downpour. Emergency teams from the BBMP, including tree clearance squads, were deployed to remove debris and ensure public safety. In a major incident a 7-foot-high, 10-foot-long compound wall of the Park View Apartments collapsed due to the heavy rain in the West Zone near ETA Mall in Binnipet. BBMP officials, in coordination with apartment staff, quickly cleared the debris, allowing residents access to the area. No injuries were reported.

In Yelahanka, a 50-foot compound wall at the Central Vacation Apartments collapsed, allowing water from a nearby lake to flood the complex. Water levels rose to as high as 4 feet overnight. Emergency response teams from the BBMP, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and fire brigade personnel worked tirelessly through the night to pump out the water. By the latest update, water levels had receded to 1 foot, and efforts to fully drain the area continue. Authorities have installed sandbags at the site of the collapsed wall to prevent further flooding, and residents have been provided with food and drinking water. Officials noted that the apartment complex sits 25 feet below Yelahanka Lake, exacerbating the problem as water from around 10 lakes drains into the area. In another incident, water from an overflowing sanitary line near Raja Canal in Madhuvana, Vijayanagar, seeped into 10 homes.

Wall and part of a house collapsed at Binnypet due to heavy rain on Saturday night in Bengaluru; People trying to navigate through flooded water in the City on Sunday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

- In Yelahanka, a 50-foot compound wall at the Central Vacation Apartments collapsed, allowing water from a nearby lake to flood the complex

Some roads in Kalyan Nagar, near Electronic City, Bengaluru-Mysuru roads, among others witnessed inundation, leading to traffic issues, which are being addressed, official sources said.

Motorists in areas like Chamarajpet, Sampangiramanagar, Town Hall, Lal Bagh, Richmond Road, Jayanagar, Banashankari, and Rajajinagar have struggled to navigate waterlogged streets. Sarjapur Road was particularly affected. *—Salar News*

IMD issues rainfall alerts for next 3 days

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heavy rainfall warnings across the State over the next three days. From 6 - 9 October, the State is expected to witness thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds in both coastal and interior regions, prompting yellow alerts.

In North Interior Karnataka, districts such as Chitradurga, Raichur, and Vijayanagar are expected to experience thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds on Monday. Meanwhile, in South Interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru, Hassan, and Chamarajanagar, persistent rainfall is forecasted for the next three days.

Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Ramanagara, are likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall during this period. These regions, known for their coffee and spice plantations, are expected to benefit from the rainfall, though local authorities have cautioned about the risks of overflowing lakes, reservoirs, and rivers.

IMD has urged residents to remain vigilant, especially in urban areas like Bengaluru, where heavy rains frequently lead to waterlogging and localized flooding. People living near water bodies have been advised to stay informed and take necessary precautions.

Authorities has urged residents to stay informed as weather could disrupt daily life and transportation in some areas, as more rainfall is anticipated over the coming days.

—Salar News

'Caste census will be discussed in Cabinet'

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said the government has decided to place the much awaited Socio-Economic and Education Survey report, popularly known as the "caste census" before the Cabinet, where it will be discussed and decided whether to table it in the legislature or to make it public directly.

State Commission for Backward Classes under its then Chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde on 29 February, had submitted the report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The report was submitted amid objections by certain sections of society and also within the ruling Congress.

The two dominant communities -- Vokkaliags and Lingayats -- have expressed reservations about the survey, calling it "unscientific", and have demanded that it be rejected and a fresh survey be conducted.

Asked if the Central government also does the caste census, won't it lead to confusion, the home minister said, "Let them do it. If there is any overlap, it can be rectified at a later stage... census done by the Central government and its data is used for everything both nationally and internationally."

PHOTO: FREEPIK

- State Commission for Backward Classes under its then Chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde on 29 February, had submitted the report to Siddaramaiah

To a question on opposition from Vokkaliga and Lingayat seers, also a section within the Congress for caste census data, and whether they can be convinced by stating that things can be rectified later, Parameshwara said, "don't know, let it be discussed in the Cabinet once. Let's see what decisions come out later."

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad asserted that the caste census report should be made public and implemented today, saying, it will be good for everyone from the caste census, and it is necessary for the all round development."If the government goes because of it, let it go. Why fear?"

Meanwhile, State BJP president BY Vijayendra questioned as to why the caste census was not being implemented in the Congress' tenure, and pointed out that such questions are being raised within the ruling party. *—PTI*

HDK slams CM for blaming Oppn in MUDA

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

HD Kumaraswamy **PHOTO: PTI**

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday hit out at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for accusing the Opposition of dragging his wife in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). case and blamed the latter's 'wrongs' for the woes.

The Union Minister also challenged Siddaramaiah for a debate on the Congress government's achievements and developmental so far.

"Time and again you (Siddaramaiah) say the opposition is jealous and you are accusing the opposition of dragging your wife (into the MUDA case). You have brought your wife, who was respectfully at home, out (in this case). It is not done by us, the opposition. You have brought her out because of wrongs you have committed (in her name)," Kumaraswamy said.

Addressing reporters here, he said, "repeatedly you (Siddaramaiah) speak about AHINDA, what have you done for AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits)? Haven't we seen what has happened in Valmiki Corporation , the loot that has happened."

Pointing to the Chief Minister's emotional appeal to people if they would forgive the opposition for targeting his wife over the MUDA 'scam', Kumaraswamy said, "Whether people will forgive or accept us, they will decide later. Let him ask the people what they will do to him for this kind of governance..."

Siddaramaiah had on Saturday come down heavily on the opposition BJP and the JD(S) for dragging his wife Parvathi B M in the MUDA case, who had never stepped into public life and was confined to her house.

He also charged Opposition with targeting him because they could not tolerate backward community in CM's post. *—PTI*

PAW-SOME DAY

45 breeds of 500 dogs steal the show at Mysuru Dasara

Rajya Sabha member and Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murty with her pet dog Gopi at the Dasara Dog Show, organised by the Raitha Dasara Subcommittee on Sunday **PHOTO: SALAR**

MYSURU, 6 OCT

The Dasara Dog Show, organised by the Raitha Dasara Subcommittee as part of the annual Dasara festival in Mysuru, drew over 500 dog owners and their pets on Sunday. A total of 45 different dog breeds participated in the event making it one of the most diverse shows to date.

Rajya Sabha member and chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murty, was also a part of the event who brought her pet dog, Gopi, which became one of the main attractions of the show.

This year saw a significant increase in the number of desi breeds, with 12 Indian dog breeds, including the Mudhol Hound from Bagalkot and the Rajapalayam from Tamil Nadu, competing alongside popular international breeds such as Chihuahuas, Golden Retrievers, St. Bernards, Rottweilers, English Mastiffs,

- This year saw a significant increase in the number of desi breeds, with 12 Indian dog breeds, including the Mudhol Hound from and the Rajapalayam from competing

German Shepherds, Tibetan Mastiffs, Labradors, Dogo Argentinos, Great Danes, Pomeranians, Pit Bulls, American Bullies, Cocker Spaniels, Boxers, French Bulldogs, Dutch Shepherds, and Tibetan Spaniels.

Unlike the previous year, where only 20 to 25 mostly foreign breeds participated, this year's show had a greater variety of local breeds. Owners proudly showcased their desi dogs, contributing to the event's success.

Speaking at the event, Murty emphasised the importance of caring for pet dogs as one would for their own children. Raising pets fosters a love for all animals among children and cultivates an appreciation for nature, including both fauna and flora, she added.

Murty also urged people to extend the same care and compassion to street dogs as they do to their pets, pointing out that both are equally important to the community. She noted that events like dog shows help nurture a sense of responsibility and affection for animals, especially among the younger generation.

Prizes were awarded to the best exotic and desi breeds, judged on criteria such as charm, movement, and agility. The evaluations were conducted by renowned national and international dog experts. Murty's pet dog, Gopi, was also awarded a prize by the organisers. *—Salar News*

Girl dies after consuming poison in Kolar

KOLAR, 6 OCT

A fifteen-year- old girl from Kolar died after she consumed pesticide before hanging herself along with her friend. The incident took place at Alahalli village under Masti police limits in Malur taluk on Saturday. She was in a relationship with one Abhishek,19, at his farm. After consuming pesticide they later hanged themselves using the girl's veil. Both were shifted to hospital, where the girl later died. If you need emotional support, please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777.

—Salar News

Punjab: Local AAP leader shot at; Akali leader blamed

CHANDIGARH, 6 OCT

A local AAP leader was shot at in Punjab's Fazilka district with the ruling party and MLA Jagdeep Kamboj accusing a leader of the SAD SAD leader Vardev Singh Noni Mann of opening the fire. The incident took place following an altercation between AAP leader Mandeep Singh Brar and some Akali workers outside the office of block development and panchayat officer in Fazilka's Jalalabad on Saturday, police said. Brar sustained a bullet injury in his chest in the incident. He is the candidate for the post of sarpanch from Muhammad Wala village. Brar was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Jalalabad but later shifted to Ludhiana. Meanwhile, the police said that strict action would be taken in the matter. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Ex-Jharkhand CM Champai Soren hospitalised

RANCHI, 6 OCT

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren was hospitalised following blood sugar-related complications, an official said on Sunday. He was admitted to the Tata Main Hospital in Jamshedpur around 9pm on Saturday. Tata Main Hospital GM Dr Sudhir Rai told PTI that Soren's condition was stable and improving. Soren, 67, joined BJP in August, alleging "disrespect" and "humiliation" in the JMM. He was appointed the chief minister on 2 February, following Hemant Soren's resignation and subsequent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. He left the post on 3 July, clearing the way for Hemant Soren's return to the chair after being granted bail. *—PTI*

Denied permission, Sonam seeks new venue for fasting

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday expressed his frustration on being denied permission to sit on a fast demanding Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh at the Jantar Mantar in the national capital, and sought an alternative. Sharing a copy of the letter sent by Delhi Police rejecting his request for sitting on a fast at the Jantar Mantar, Wangchuk, in a post on X, said, "Another rejection, another frustration. Finally this morning we got this rejection letter for the officially designated place for protests." As per guidelines, applications for holding any demonstration at the Jantar Mantar must be sent at least 10 days prior to the planned event to be held strictly between 10am and 5pm, police said. *—PTI*

Suspicious boat off M'rashtra beach triggers advisory

PALGHAR, 6 OCT

A suspicious boat was spotted off the coast in Maharashtra's Palghar district, prompting the police to issue an advisory, urging law enforcement agencies and the public to remain alert, and a search by the Coast Guard. Locals saw the boat around midnight on 3 October near Chikhle village in Dahanu taluka and reported the sighting to the police, said the advisory. The boat, which appeared larger and wider than typical vessels in the area, was near the shore. However, when locals used their mobile flashlights and two-wheeler headlights to guide it to the coast, it ventured deep into the Arabian Sea, said the advisory. The Coast Guard deployed helicopters to locate the suspicious green and white vessel, it said. The authorities have urged the public to contact police if they spot any suspicious movements or boats matching the description, the advisory added. *—PTI*

Kerala CMO denounces media for 'fake news'

Media reported on CM's meet with his staff at his residence

T'PURAM, 6 OCT

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office on Sunday slammed a section of the media, accusing them of attempting to 'create fake news' regarding his meetings with his personal staff at both his office and residence.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) issued a strongly worded statement after a section of the media reported on the Chief Minister's meeting with his personal staff at his official residence on Sunday.

The reports linked the meeting to a potential decision regarding the fate of ADGP (Law and Order) MR Ajithkumar, who is facing criticism from the Opposition Congress and ruling LDF partner CPI for his alleged meetings with RSS leaders.

The CMO stated that it is usual for the Chief Minister to meet with his personal staff, including his private secretary and political secretary, at his office as part of daily operations.

This is something that happens every day at the Chief Minister's office in the capital, it said.

"Creating news about someone from the personal staff arriving at the CM's residence to discuss something special, without any form of verification, does not reflect media ethics or decorum.

"Such irresponsible attempts to create fake news highlight that the credibility of the media itself is being undermined," the statement

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan PHOTO: PTI

MLA Anvar set to initiate Democratic Movement of Kerala

MALAPPURAM, 6 OCT

Dissident MLA PV Anvar said that there are "some technical issues" in forming a political party, and he will launch a social collective Democratic Movement of Kerala (DMK) at a public meeting in Manjeri on Sunday evening. Anvar, who recently visited Tamil Nadu and reportedly met with the leaders of the ruling DMK, stated that his Chennai visit was part of a political move. He said he would collaborate with all those who are willing to cooperate. *—PTI*

MLA Jaleel faces ire over 'Muslims in smuggling' remark

T'PURAM, 6 OCT

Left MLA KT Jaleel on Sunday sparked controversy by stating that most of the individuals involved in gold smuggling through the international airport in Malappuram district are from the Muslim community, drawing sharp reactions from the IUML and dissident legislator PV Anvar.

In a detailed Facebook post, the ruling MLA said a significant percentage of Muslims involved in crimes like gold smuggling and hawala believe that none of these activities are "irreligious."

His statement comes amidst a raging political row in the State over Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's recent allegedly controversial remarks about the Muslim-dominated district of Malappuram.

"Christians should be the ones to come forward to oppose wrongdoings in the Christian community, and Muslims should point out crimes committed by Muslims," he said. *—PTI*

KEJRI'S NEW CHALLENGE

'If NDA states get free electricity, will campaign for BJP'

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal Sunday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide free electricity in the 22 BJP-ruled states before the Delhi Assembly elections and promised to campaign for the saffron party if this demand is fulfilled.

Kejriwal dared BJP to hold the Delhi Assembly elections along with those in Jharkhand and Maharashtra in November and said AAP is ready for it.

Addressing a public gathering at 'Janta Ki Adalat', Kejriwal accused the BJP's "double engine" governments of failing in states and predicted the party's ouster from Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

"Double engine governments mean inflation, corruption, and unemployment," he said, adding, "the exit polls show that the BJP's double engine governments will soon collapse in Haryana & J&K.

During his speech, Kejriwal held a packet containing six 'revris' (sweets) and said that each "revri" symbolised the six free services provided by his government -- free electricity, water, bus rides for women, pilgrimage for the elderly, healthcare, education.

"Modi Ji, there are elections in Delhi in February. BJP is in power in 22 states. Make electricity free in these states, I will campaign for Modi Ji in the Delhi elections," he said.

Kejriwal claimed the BJP government has failed in Haryana, saying, "No one in Haryana is letting them enter their villages. People are resisting them."

The AAP supremo labelled the BJP's "double engine" model as "double loot and double corruption" and also accused it of being anti-poor while citing the removal of bus marshals and data entry operators, as well as the halting of home guards' salaries in Delhi. *—PTI*

Former Delhi chief minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal PHOTO: PTI

Saini: BJP will form govt for 3rd time, Cong will blame EVMs

CHANDIGARH, 6 OCT

Rejecting exit poll predictions, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday claimed his party BJP will form the government in the State with full majority for a third time when the results are announced on 8 October.

Congress will blame the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for their defeat, he said, attacking the Opposition party, which is ahead in the race, according to most exit polls.

Replying to a question about the exit polls predicting a Congress win, Saini said, "On October 8, we are going to form the government."

PHOTO: PTI

BJP worked for every section without any discrimination and on the basis of this work, the party will form the government with full majority, he further said.

"The exit polls have their own theory and they have their own system, but we work on ground. Our leaders are directly connected with people. The people of Haryana want the BJP to come to power for a third time. We are forming the government for a third time," he said.

The Haryana Assembly elections on Saturday saw a turnout of nearly 67 per cent, with several exit polls predicting a clear majority for Congress, which is eyeing a comeback after a decade. *—PTI*

Bypolls on 10 seats INDIA's 1st test in UP

LUCKNOW, 6 OCT

Bypolls on 10 assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh will be a litmus test for the INDIA bloc's unity after the group's success in the recent Lok Sabha polls when they won more than 40 seats, significantly contributing to the BJP's failure to win a simple majority parliament.

However, the two INDIA bloc allies in Uttar Pradesh -- Samajwadi Party and Congress -- have not been able to firm-up a seat-sharing pact for the bypolls even though the Congress has staked claims to contest five of the 10 seats, a proposition the SP may not agree with.

Leaders from both the parties say their aim is to defeat the BJP, and they are confident they would contest the bypolls together.

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai told PTI, "The party is holding 'Samvidhan Bachao Sammelan' (save Constitution conferences) on all 10 assembly seats that are going to polls. Two such conferences have already been held. We have appointed incharges and observers on all the 10 seats and ground work is on." The dates of by-elections have not been announced yet. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

MUZAFFARNAGAR RIOTS: COURT ACQUITS 7 MEN

MUZAFFARNAGAR, 6 OCT

A local court here has acquitted seven accused in the Muzaffarnagar riots case due to lack of evidence, a counsel said on Sunday.

The Special Investigation Team has filed chargesheets in 175 of 510 riot cases, but only 21 people have been convicted in three cases so far. More than 60 people were killed and over 40,000 people displaced in the communal riots of 2013 in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli districts. Bittu, Praveen, Bablu, Pankaj, Pintu, Narender, and Anil were acquitted on Sunday.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Kanishk Kumar said the prosecution failed to prove its story in the case. Defence counsel Rahul Chaudhry said the complainant and other witnesses did not support the prosecution's and turned hostile.

According to the FIR filed in the matter, rioters barged into the Bahawdi village house of one Shakir and robbed cash and jewellery. *—PTI*

COMMUNAL TENSIONS

BJP's attempts in Goa will be challenged: RaGa

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused the BJP of deliberately stoking communal tensions in Goa and asserted that the ruling party's attempts will not go unchallenged as the people of the state and the whole of India "see through this divisive agenda".

In a post on X, Gandhi said Goa's appeal lies in its natural beauty and the warmth and hospitality of its diverse and harmonious people.

"Unfortunately, under BJP rule, this harmony is under attack. The BJP is deliberately stoking communal tensions, with a former RSS leader provoking Christians and Sangh organisations calling for an economic boycott of Muslims," the former Congress chief said.

PHOTO: PTI

"In Goa, the BJP's strategy is clear: divide the people while exploiting ecologically sensitive areas by illegally converting green land and bypassing environmental regulations - an assault on Goa's natural and social heritage," Gandhi said.

"BJP's attempts will not go unchallenged. The people of Goa and the whole of India see through this divisive agenda and are standing united," he said. *—PTI*

Protesters attacked Dasna temple, cops could've shot '10-20' people: BJP MLA

GHAZIABAD, 6 OCT

BJP MLA from Ghaziabad's Loni seat Nand Kishore Gurjar has alleged that the crowd which had gathered on Friday night to protest against Yati Narsinghanand had pelted stones at the Dasna Devi temple here and police should have "shot" attackers.

If 10-20 people had died, there would have been no rioters, the MLA is purportedly heard saying in a video that has appeared on social media.

A large crowd had protested on Friday night outside the Dasna Devi temple, where Narsinghanand presides, against his remarks on Prophet Muhammad. The controversial priest is facing multiple FIRs in the matter.

Gurjar alleged that there was stone pelting on the temple on Friday night and said, "The attack on the temple is an attack on Sanatan Dharma."

In the video, the BJP MLA is arguing, ''When slogans of 'Sar Tan Se Juda' are raised, do the people of Hindu society go and pelt stones at a mosque like this?''

One more case against Narsinghanand

The Thane police in Maharashtra have registered an FIR against controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand, who is already facing multiple cases, over his alleged objectionable remarks against Prophet Muhammad.

The seer allegedly made the objectionable remarks during a programme held at Hindi Bhavan in Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh). *—PTI*

Felt guilty about deserting Pawar: NCP's Nimbalkar

SATARA, 6 OCT

Senior leader of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar on Sunday said he feels guilty about deserting Sharad Pawar but did so to protect his workers.

Nimbalkar's statement has come amid growing buzz about him returning to the parent fold of the party ahead of the State Assembly elections.

Speaking at a function in Phaltan to mark his 75th birthday, Nimbalkar said he decided to break ranks with Sharad Pawar and go with the party headed by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar for the safety and security of his workers.

Ajit Pawar, along with several other MLAs, joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government in July 2023, leading to a split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) founded by his uncle Sharad Pawar.

Referring to speculations that he will join the NCP (SP), the senior leader said, "How can I face (Sharad) Pawar saheb, who made me a minister in 2009 though I was not even a legislator? I feel guilty about deserting him. But I did so to ensure the security of my workers. But that doesn't seem to be happening."

The senior leader said he would decide about his political future after discussing it with his workers.

"Mumbai, Pune, Nashik and nearby areas will account for about 125 seats. You need 144 for a simple majority," he said. Nimbalkar is the father-in-law of state assembly Speaker Narwekar. *—PTI*

BENGAL SEEKS JUSTICE

Junior docs continue indefinite hunger strike

KOLKATA, 6 OCT

Agitating junior doctors demanding justice for the deceased woman medic of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and workplace safety continued their hunger strike until death on Sunday in the central part of the city's Dharmatala area.

Several senior doctors, who have been at the protest site since Saturday night, are also planning to join their junior counterparts in the hunger strike.

"The support of these people gives us the courage, the enthusiasm to continue our protest against the gruesome murder of our sister. We are happy to see that people have not forgotten that justice is yet not given and attacks on doctors are still on and the state government has no serious note of our demands," Debasish Halder, one of the agitating doctors, told PTI.

The junior medics started their hunger strike untill death on Saturday night after the state government missed the 24-hour deadline of fulfilling their demands by 8.30 pm on Saturday.

Junior doctors, protesting over the alleged rape and murder of their colleague at the RG Kar hospital in Kolkata PHOTO: PTI

They had on Friday begun a sit-in demonstration at the Dorina crossing in Dharmtatala area following an alleged assault by Kolkata Police personnel.

To maintain transparency, the junior medics have installed CCTV cameras at the dais where their colleagues are holding the strike.

The state would be held responsible if any doctor fell ill during the fast, the junior doctor said. *—PTI*

The cases of rape are increasing because of the absence of timely action. The inept handling by the West Bengal government, is acting as a fillip to similar gruesome incidents getting repeated in the state.

-CV Ananda Bose, West Bengal Governor

HC orders 2nd post-mortem of minor's murder

KOLKATA, 6 OCT

Calcutta High Court on Sunday ordered that a second post-mortem be conducted on the schoolgirl who was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. The 10-year-old girl was returning to her Joynagar home after attending her tuition classes on Saturday when the incident took place. Justice Tirthankar Ghosh of the Calcutta High Court, hearing a petition filed by the girl's parents, directed that the second post-mortem be conducted at AIIMS Hospital in Kalyani on Monday in the presence of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) of Baruipur court. Justice Ghosh also ordered that police should register a case under the POCSO Act. If AIIMS Kalyani lacks the necessary, it should be carried out at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Puducherry PDS shops to give free rice and sugar

PUDUCHERRY, 6 OCT

Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy announced here on Sunday that his government has decided to distribute 10 kg rice and 2 kg sugar, free of cost, through fair price shops to card holders before Diwali. He said the decision to distribute free rice and sugar to all families covered under public distribution system in the Union Territory before Diwali was taken in keeping with the pleas from various quarters. The ration shops which have remained closed for some months now would be reopened to distribute rice and sugar. He said workers employed in fair price shops who remain unpaid for several months would be paid a month's salary when the shops reopen. He noted that funds have been earmarked to procure free distribution scheme. *—PTI*

FIR against 2 for criminal breach of trust with designer

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

A court here has directed the Delhi Police to lodge an FIR against two former employees of fashion designer Pallavi Mohan for criminal breach of trust for running a parallel business and using her brand name and clients to sell their own products. Judicial Magistrate Akshay Sharma directed the police to file the case on a complaint filed by 'Not So Serious Trading LLP', owned by Mohan. "This court has no hesitation to hold that the cognisable offence of criminal breach of trust by a servant, punishable u/s. 408 IPC is clearly seen to be committed by the alleged Manu Uniyal and Surender Kumar. Further, this court is of the view that proper filed investigation is required as the vendors and the buyers require to be examined," the judge said in an order passed on 4 October. *—PTI*

Jaisalmer: 2 kids found dead inside water tank

JAISALMER, 6 OCT

The bodies of two missing children were found inside the water tank of an unoccupied house near their home in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, police said on Sunday. The parents of Adil, 6, and Hasnain, 7, Babar Magra area residents, filed a complaint on Saturday after the children went missing, they said. During search, their bodies were found inside the water tank of an empty house on Saturday night, Kotwali SHO Sawai Singh said, adding that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The family members have alleged that the children were murdered as there were injury marks on their bodies. They also sat on a dharna outside the mortuary demanding the arrest of the accused. *—PTI*

50 hospitalised after having dinner at M'rashtra hostel

LATUR, 6 OCT

Nearly 50 female students of a government college were hospitalised for suspected food poisoning after having dinner at their hostel in Maharashtra's Latur city, officials said on Sunday. The hostel, part of the Puranmal Lahoti Government Polytechnic, has 324 female students. At around 7pm on Saturday, the students had dinner, consisting of rice, chapattis, 'okra' curry and lentil soup, the officials said. By 8.30pm, several of them felt nauseous and some of the students started vomiting, they said. Twenty of them were discharged by 3am on Sunday, he said. The other 30 students were undergoing treatment at the hospital. None of them was in critical condition, he said. Police arrived at the scene and the authorities collected the food samples. *—PTI*

TN CELEBRATES 92ND IAF DAY

Indian Air Force's (IAF) aerobatics team 'Surya Kiran' performs during an air show; Ambulances stuck in traffic snarl, teaming crowds face difficulty in commuting home as part of the 92nd anniversary celebrations of IAF, at Marina Beach, in Chennai, on Sunday ***PHOTO: PTI***

SC: Removal of women official to be taken seriously

Village residents wanted the sarpanch out as she was a woman

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch.

The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions.

PHOTO: PTI

- Bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post as she was allegedly residing in a govt house

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its 27 September order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing in a house constructed on government land. *—PTI*

GUJARAT'S BIGGEST BUST

₹1,814 cr MD, raw materials seized in Bhopal; 2 arrested

Total 907.09 kg of MD, both in solid & liquid forms, was seized ***PHOTO: PTI***

AHMEDABAD, 6 OCT

Authorities have seized mephedrone (MD) drug valued at Rs 1,814 crore and its raw materials from a factory on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and arrested two persons in this connection, officials said on Sunday.

Total 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, was seized in the raid and search operation carried out jointly by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, at the factory located in Bagroda industrial estate near Bhopal on Saturday, they said.

This is the largest illegal factory ever busted by the Gujarat ATS. The unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD drug per day, the ATS said in a statement.

During the operation, authorities seized 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, with an estimated value of Rs 1,814.18 crore in the international market, the ATS said. Two persons, identified as Amit Chaturvedi, 57, and Sanyal Prakash Bane, 40, were arrested during the raid.

In addition to the contraband, around 5,000 kg of raw materials, comprising chemicals and equipment, for the production of MD, including grinders, motors, glass flasks, heaters and other apparatus, were also found. *—PTI*

Jani Master's National Award suspended amid rape case

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

National Film Awards Cell of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has suspended the National Film Award to be presented to choreographer Jani Master citing allegations of sexual assault.

The authorities also withdrew the invitation to the choreographer to attend the 70th National Film Awards in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Jani Master, whose real name is Shaik Jani Basha, would have been felicitated at the ceremony for his work on the song "Megham Karukkatha" from 2022's Tamil movie "Thiruchitrambalam".

"In view of the seriousness of the allegation and the matter being subjudice, the Competent Authority has decided to suspend the National Film Award of the Best Choreography for the Year 2022 to Shri Shaik Jani Basha for the film Thiruchitrambalam until further orders.

"Hence, the invitation extended to Shri Shaik Jani Basha for the 70th National Film Awards Function to be held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 8.10.24 is hereby withdrawn," read the note, signed by deputy director Indrani Bose.

A city court on Thursday granted interim bail to Jani Master after he filed the bail application to attend the National Film Awards.

Last month, a woman, who worked as Jani Master's assistant, in a complaint with the police, alleged that the choreographer had sexually assaulted her in 2020 during a work trip to Mumbai and continued sexual harassment and also threatened her not to disclose it to anyone. *—PTI*

Jani Master ***PHOTO: PTI***

Umar Khalid ***PHOTO: PTI***

Delhi riots 2020: HC to hear Umar's bail plea today

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Delhi High Court will on Monday hear the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a UAPA case related to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the communal riots here in February 2020.

The bail pleas by other co-accused in the case -- student activist Sharjeel Imam and Gulfisha Fatima, 'United Against Hate' founder Khalid Saifi and others, are also listed for fresh hearing before a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur.

The cases were earlier before a bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait but the judge was recently transferred to the Madhya Pradesh High Court as its Chief Justice.

Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and several others have been booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of the February 2020 riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The violence had erupted during the protests against the CAA. *—PTI*

Burnt premises of a shop cum residential building in Chembur's Siddarth Colony, Maharashtra, on Sunday ***PHOTO: ANI***

7 killed as fire breaks out in Mumbai building

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

Seven people, including three minors, were killed after a fire broke out in a double-storey shop-cum-residential structure in Mumbai on Sunday morning, a fire official said.

The incident took place at 5.20am at Siddharth Colony in Chembur area, he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde later visited the site. He announced a high-level probe into the incident and a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

The ground floor of the structure was used as a shop and the upper floor as residence, an official said.

The blaze was confined to the electric wiring and installations in the shop at the ground floor and spread to the upper floor, he said, adding it was a 'level-one' fire.

Seven people who were injured taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where all of them declared brought dead, the official said.

Fire engines, water tankers and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.15am, the official said.

Shinde who met family members of the victims said the incident was very unfortunate. *—PTI*

Man dies during Ram Leela performance

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

A 45-year-old man died after he suffered a heart attack on stage while performing the role of Lord Rama at a Ramlila in Vishwakarma Nagar of Shahdara, police on Sunday said. According to police, the deceased, identified as Sunil Kaushik, was a property dealer. Rahul Kaushik, a family member, told PTI that Sunil was one of the founding members of the "Jai Shri Ramlila" committee, which was established in 1977. Sunil was performing Sita's 'swayamvar' scene which required him to break the bow, however, while singing a song, he felt a sudden chest pain and went backstage, where he collapsed, Rahul said. His wife and son, present there, rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he was put on a ventilator. After one hour, he was declared dead, Rahul said. *—PTI*

While performing, the deceased identified as Sunil Kaushik felt a sudden chest pain and collapsed ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

Villagers kill 6th wolf in UP after 'Op Bhediya'

BAHRAICH, 6 OCT

The last one of the pack of six wolves that had created terror in Mahsi tehsil has been killed by the locals in Tamachpur village of this district, officials on Sunday said.

The wolf killed late Saturday night under the Ramgaon police station area is a female and not lame as suspected earlier, they said.

The wolf's body has been sent for post-mortem, the officials said.

"On information, we reached there and found the dead wolf and the bodies of a goat. There were injury marks on the wolf's body and it was bleeding," Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ajit Pratap Singh told PTI.

Some villagers of Tamachpur village told reporters that the wolf had tried to attack an innocent child sleeping next to his mother in the courtyard of a house in the village, but on hearing the mother's screams, the wolf ran away and attacked a goat there.

Earlier on 10 September, a fifth wolf was captured as part of the 17 July 'Operation Bhediya' campaign that has been ongoing in 50 villages in Mahsi tehsil of Bahraich district to catch a pack of six wolves that have killed eight people and injured more than 20 others since mid-July. Four other wolves were earlier also rescued in the district. *—PTI*

IN UTTARAKHAND

2 foreign mountaineers rescued after 3 days

GOPESHWAR, 6 OCT

Two foreign women mountaineers, who were stranded at a height of 6,015 metres on way to the Chaukhamba III peak in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, were rescued on Sunday morning, the District Disaster Management Centre here said.

The mountaineers -- Michelle Theresa Dvorak from the USA and Fay Jane Manners from the United Kingdom, were stranded since 3 October.

Both are safe despite their ordeal lasting three days.

Though looking somewhat tired, the experienced mountaineers wore a smile when they were brought to the Jyotirmath (Joshimath) helipad by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel on Sunday morning.

The two rescued mountaineers with Indian Air Force pilots and crew ***PHOTO: X/@IAF_MCC***

A French mountaineering team which was also on a separate expedition to the peak helped in locating the stranded woman from the USA and UK. The coordinates of the location of the stranded mountaineers obtained from the French team was of great help to the joint team of rescuers in tracing them and bring them to the helipad, Chamoli's Additional Information Officer Ravindra Negi said.

The two got stranded after their bag containing food and vital climbing gear fell into a gorge when they were at a height of 6,015 metres on way to Chaukhamba III peak situated at 6,995 metres. *—PTI*

3K INDIANS FOR 1 WAITER JOB

Around 3,000 Indian students make a beeline outside a restaurant in Cannada for waiter and server jobs. This comes after an advertisement for a new restaurant called Tandoori Flames was out in Brampton. The viral video has sparked a debate about the opportunities for international students in Canada. ***PHOTO: VIDEOGRAB***

Amid war, US students fear freedom of speech

1 YR OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Palestinians evacuate wounded after an Israeli airstrike ***PHOTO: PTI***

As a junior at George Washington University, Ty Lindia meets new students every day. But with the shadow of the Israel-Hamas war hanging over the Washington, DC, campus, where everyone has a political opinion, each new encounter is fraught.

"This idea that I might say the wrong thing kind of scares me," said Lindia, who studies political science. "You have to tiptoe around politics until one person says something that signifies they lean a certain way on the issue."

He has seen friendships — including some of his own — end over views about the war. In public, he keeps his stance to himself for fear that future employers could hold it against him.

"Before 7 October, there wasn't really a big fear," said Lindia, of Morristown, New Jersey.

A year after Hamas' attack in southern Israel, some students say they are reluctant to speak out because it could pit them against their peers, professors or even potential employers. Social bubbles have cemented along the divisions of the war. New protest rules on many campuses raise the risk of suspension or expulsion.

Tensions over the conflict burst wide open last year amid emotional demonstrations in the aftermath of the October 7 attack. In the spring, a wave of pro-Palestinian tent encampments led to some 3,200 arrests.

The atmosphere on US campuses has calmed since those protests, yet lingering unease remains.

Students reconsider what to say in classes

In a recent class discussion on gender and the military at Indiana University, sophomore Mikayla Kaplan said she thought about mentioning her female friends who serve in the Israeli military. But in a room full of politically progressive classmates, she decided to stay quiet.

"In the back of my head, I'm always thinking about things that I should or shouldn't say," Kaplan said.

Kaplan, who proudly wears a Star of David necklace, said that before college she had many friends of different faiths, but after 7 October, almost all of her friends are Jewish.

The war began when Hamas-led fighters killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack on southern Israel. They abducted another 250 people and are still holding about 100 hostages. Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed at least 41,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

At the University of Connecticut, some students said the conflict doesn't come up as much in classes. Ahmad Zoghol, an engineering student, said it remains a tense issue and he has heard of potential employers scrutinising political statements students make in college.

"There's definitely that concern for a lot of people, including myself, that if we speak about it there's going to be some sort of repercussion," he said.

Campuses grapple with divisions

Compared with the much larger campus protests of the Vietnam War era, when few students openly supported the war, campuses today appear more divided, said Mark Yudof, a former president of the University of California system. For many, the issues are more personal.

Meanwhile, many campuses are adding policies that clamp down on protests, often banning encampments and limiting demonstrations to certain hours or locations.

At Indiana University, a new policy forbids "expressive activity" after 11 pm, among other restrictions. Doctoral student Bryce Greene, who helped lead a pro-Palestinian encampment last semester, said he was threatened with suspension after organising an 11.30 pm vigil.

That's a startling contrast to past protests on campus, including a 2019 climate demonstration that drew hundreds of students without university interference, he said.

New rules allow protests, but with conditions

The tense atmosphere has led some faculty members to rethink teaching certain subjects or entering certain debates, said Risa Lieberwitz, general counsel for the American Association of University Professors.

Lieberwitz, who teaches labour law at Cornell University, has been alarmed by the growing number of colleges requiring students to register demonstrations days in advance.

At Wesleyan University in Connecticut, police removed a group of pro-Palestinian students from a campus building where they held a sit-in in September. Wesleyan President Michael Roth said he supports students' free speech rights, but they "don't have a right to take over part of a building."

Wesleyan is offering new courses on civil disagreement this year, and faculty are working to help foster discussion among students.

Schools try to find balance on free speech

American universities pride themselves as being places of open discourse where students can engage across their differences. Since October 7, they have been under tremendous pressure to uphold free speech while also protecting students from discrimination.

The US Education Department is investigating more than 70 colleges for reports of antisemitism or Islamophobia. Leaders of several prestigious colleges have been called before Congress by Republicans who accuse them of being soft on antisemitism.

Yet finding the line where protected speech ends is as hard as ever. Leaders grapple with whether to allow chants seen by some as calls of support for Palestinians and by others as a threat against Jews. It's especially complicated at public universities, which are bound by the First Amendment, while private colleges have flexibility to impose wider speech limits. *—PTI*

SALAR

Survivors fight with aid cuts & Taliban year after earthquake

People had just seconds to flee their homes when the terrifying sound of earth cracking open reverberated across western Afghanistan's Herat province.

Nobody knows for sure how many people died in a 6.3 magnitude earthquake on 7 October, 2023, or in the strong aftershocks that followed. The Taliban government estimated that at least 4,000 perished. The UN gave a far lower figure of about 1,500. Survivors stopped counting, exhausted after digging through dirt to save their loved ones or bury them.

It was the deadliest natural disaster to strike Afghanistan in recent memory.

It was also another major challenge for the Taliban since they seized power in 2021, a test of their readiness to lead a country beset by economic hardship, isolation, devastation from decades of war, and vulnerability to shocks like earthquakes and climate change.

Quake survivors rely on charities

Charities had stepped in to build housing for survivors. But the accommodation they built lacks walls so there is no privacy, while the poor design leaves them vulnerable to storms or heavy rainfall. Houses either have no bathrooms or the bathrooms don't have a roof.

Rahmani's village, Naib Rafi, still doesn't have a health clinic or a school. Instead, children are learning in tents.

The government didn't provide financial assistance, he said. Senior officials and Islamic scholars visited communities a few times, listened to people's problems and left.

Ahmadullah Muttaqi, spokesman and member of the Herat Earthquake Commission, said authorities worked with charities and nongovernmental groups to provide shelter and medical assistance.

Foreign aid money is drying up

Afghans were already struggling with displacement, food insecurity and poverty before the quake struck, and the tragedy put further pressure on public services. Aid agencies, which have been propping up Afghan health care and education for the past three years under the Taliban, became even more thinly stretched.

The International Rescue Committee set up feeding corners after the earthquake so mothers could safely breastfeed children and get nutrition counselling.

The relief agency said it also fixed water systems, provided emergency cash, hygiene kits, medical and mental health support to tens of thousands of people.

But, with other global crises raging, such support is finite.

International funding for Afghanistan has received less than a third of its target. Changing political priorities, economic troubles and wars are hitting donors' pockets, especially those in the West.

Widespread opposition to the Taliban's treatment of Afghan women and girls is also having an effect.

Investment in quality development assistance would benefit Afghan women and girls disproportionately and it's sometimes in their name that a reduction in aid to Afghanistan is promoted, said Calder.

Fears of another disaster

Herat authorities have been unable to fully meet humanitarian needs, while damaged infrastructure has hampered recovery efforts. A near-total reliance on aid organisations for basics like health care and shelter has left people exposed.

Four of Gul Ahmad Osmani's children died in the disaster. He heard boys screaming under the soil in his village. It was impossible to pull them out, he said.

The helping hands came from other cities, districts and provinces to clear away rubble, bury the dead, and distribute everyday items like clothing.

But it's been almost six months since NGOs or well-wishers came to help the residents of Zinda Jan. A kind doctor from northern Baghlan province donated money recently. *—PTI*

Afghans were already struggling with displacement, food insecurity and poverty before the quake struck, and the tragedy put further pressure on public services ***PHOTO: PTI***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Lebanese worldwide fear for their home, loved ones as violence escalates

People carry their luggage as they cross into Syria on foot, through a crater caused by Israeli airstrikes aiming to block Beirut-Damascus highway at the Masnaa crossing, in eastern Bekaa Valley, Lebanon ***PHOTO: PTI***

It was a year ago when Jomana Siddiqui visited Lebanon, where her father was born — and is now buried. She planned to return there soon; this time, she thought, she would take her two teenage daughters.

Instead, Siddiqui, who lives in California, now worries about relatives there. As she watches from afar the violence and the recent escalation in Israel's military campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon, Siddiqui thinks about the people she met during her visit, the kindness and generosity she encountered.

She thinks about her father's grave — when, or if, she will get to visit it again. Her voice cracks with emotions. It's been gut-wrenching, she said.

"It's like the universal story of the Lebanese people," she said. "They have to keep leaving and not knowing when they can come back."

From the United States to South Africa, Cyprus, Brazil and beyond, many members of Lebanon's far-flung and large diaspora are contending with the ripples of the violence — grieving, gripped by fear for loved ones and for their homeland, trying to find ways to help.

Some 1,400 Lebanese, including civilians and fighters of the militant group Hezbollah, have been killed and some 1.2 million driven from their homes since Israel escalated its strikes in late September, saying it aims to push Hezbollah away from the countries' shared border.

For Lina Kayat, who moved to South Africa almost 36 years ago but still has a big family in Lebanon, the violence and tensions there have echoes of earlier turbulent chapters.

Kayat, who lives in South Africa's coastal city of Durban, speaks daily to her family, including her mother and her sister.

"They are very scared and very worried about what is going to happen," she said.

Generations of Lebanese have grappled with whether to leave to seek better opportunities or escape various times of tumult — from a 15-year-old civil war to military occupations, bombings and political assassinations — or stay in a Lebanon that despite its numerous scars retains its allure for many.

Lebanon — home to multiple religious groups, including Christians and Sunni and Shiite Muslims — takes pride in its large emigrant communities, which include successful businessmen and celebrities of Lebanese heritage.

The current military escalation unfolds amid fears that fighting could spread in the region and comes as the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza nears the grim one-year mark.

"It happening on top of Gaza is almost too much to bear," said James Zogby, president of the Washington DC-based Arab American Institute.

"It almost makes you physically ill just trying to fathom the extent of the trauma," added Zogby, whose father was born in Lebanon.

Already, Lebanon had been on edge and struggling under the weight of an economic meltdown, the fallout from a massive 2020 port explosion and other crises. It's been without a president for two years.

Against such a sombre backdrop, Zogby wonders what will become of the displaced.

"Who's going to care for them? Where do the health services come from ... when the country is already as overstretched as it is and on the verge of collapse?" he said. "At what point does it finally collapse? And who will care?"

Fuelling the pain, he said, is his anger at the US response to the devastation in Gaza and now the escalation in Lebanon.

Akram Khater, director of the Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at North Carolina State University, said that since the earliest diaspora, Lebanese who left have been contributing heavily to the economic well-being of Lebanon, sending large amounts of remittances.

Watching the escalation in Lebanon, where he was born and raised, has been re-traumatising, he said.

Recently, hundreds of Lebanese flags filled the night sky in Dearborn, Michigan, as some attended a rally to support Lebanon and protest the Israeli offensive there.

At Sao Paulo's international airport, two Lebanese brothers who've been living in Brazil, recently had a solemn reunion. They said, eight of their loved ones — their sister, brother-in-law, four of their nephews and two of their nephews' children — were killed in Lebanon in one of the attacks.

Hussein Zeineddine, one of the brothers, had been on vacation with his family in southern Lebanon when the area was hit by Israeli attacks, he told The Associated Press. He and his family moved to a safer location until they could book flights back to Brazil. "My wife was crying and asking us to leave. We left just with basic items. And then, shortly after, my sister's house was bombed," he said after his arrival.

In Cyprus, Rosaline Ghoukassian said the overwhelming majority of Lebanese don't want this war. She relocated to Cyprus with her husband Raffi Garabedian and their daughter Maria after the 2020 ammonium nitrate explosion in Beirut's port that killed more than 200 people. She said she'd been disenchanted with Lebanon's political leadership and also lamented Hezbollah's influence.

Their decision to leave Lebanon was never about money but safety, as their daughter explained in a letter she wrote in class in Cyprus: "I don't want to go there because I was saved in the explosion, and I don't want to go live there because I don't want to die."

Hezbollah began firing into Israel the day after Hamas' attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, in which the militants killed some 1,200 people and took about 250 others hostage. Since then, Israel's military response in Gaza has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. . *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Tropical storm Milton to become hurricane in US

MIAMI, 6 OCT

A storm system that was brewing in the Gulf of Mexico strengthened into Tropical Storm Milton on Saturday and forecasters warned it could intensify into a hurricane and slam into the west coast of Florida later this week. Tropical Storm Milton was about 365 miles (585 kilometres) west-northwest of Progreso, Mexico, and about 1,375 km west-southwest of Tampa, Florida, with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph while heading north-northeast at 6 kph, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said early Sunday. "Milton moving slowly but expected to strengthen rapidly," the center said, noting a "risk of life-threatening impacts increasing for portions of the Florida west coast." *—PTI*

4 migrants die crossing English Channel

PARIS, 6 OCT

A two-year-old has been crushed to death and three other people have been killed in two attempts to cross the English Channel using overcrowded boats, French authorities say. "A child was trampled to death," French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said on X on Saturday. "... The smugglers have the blood of these people on their hands, and our government will intensify the fight against these gangs who enrich themselves by organising these deadly crossings." The body of the toddler was found in a boat on Saturday, and three adult immigrants were killed while seeking to reach British shores in another boat, Jacques Billant, prefect of the Pas-de-Calais region, was quoted as saying by the AFP news agency. *—Courtesy, Al-Jazeera*

Taiwan reports 4 Chinese aircraft near territory

TAIPEI, 6 OCT

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) said on Sunday that four Chinese military aircraft and six naval vessels were detected operating around Taiwan from 6 am (local time) on Saturday to 6 am (local time) on Sunday. According to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND), two of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait median line in the country's northern, central, southwestern, and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ).After three days of no Chinese activity, Taiwan detected Chinese military aircraft and naval vessels around itself on Saturday, a statement by Taiwan's Ministry of Defence stated. *—ANI*

Wounded US officer shoots man during knife attack

SANTA MONICA, 6 OCT

A California officer fatally shot a man who wounded him with a knife outside a city police headquarters in what authorities called "an unprovoked attack." A man in his 30s approached the male officer outside the front doors of the Santa Monica Police Department around 5.20 pm Saturday. The man was told he would need to wait while the officer finished speaking to a resident, the department said. "Without warning, the individual attacked the officer while pulling a knife from his clothing. The suspect slashed and stabbed the officer," the department said in a statement posted on social media. The officer armed himself and retreated around the corner of the building as the man continued the attack.
The officer then shot the man, the department said.
—PTI

ISRAELI STRIKES AT GAZA MOSQUE KILL 19

Israel Defence Forces says they dismantled 250m terrorist tunnel in southern Lebanon

DEIR AL-BALAH, 6 OCT

An Israeli strike on a mosque in the Gaza Strip on early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in its widening war on Iran-allied militant groups across the region.

Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza nearly a year after its 7 October attack, and has opened a new front against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has been trading fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after it launched a ballistic missile attack on the country last week.

The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as US-allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have also joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel.

The strike in Gaza hit a mosque where displaced people were sheltering near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah *PHOTO: X*

The strike in Gaza hit a mosque where displaced people were sheltering near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. Israel said it targeted a Hamas command and control center embedded among civilians, without providing evidence.

Israel also ordered new evacuations in northern Gaza, which largely emptied out in the early weeks of the war when Israel ordered its entire population to flee south. Up to 300,000 people are estimated to have remained there despite harsh conditions and heavy destruction.

"We are in a new phase of the war," the military said in leaflets dropped over the area. "These areas are considered dangerous combat zones."

Palestinian residents reported heavy Israeli strikes across northern Gaza. The Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, said several homes and buildings had been hit and they were not able to reach them because of the bombardment. *—PTI*

Israel intercepts drones from Lebanon

BEIRUT, 7 OCT

The tensions between the two countries continue to remain high as several suspected drones launched from Lebanon were shot down by Israeli air defences on Sunday, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said.

The military said that the "suspicious aerial targets" did not cross into Israeli airspace.

Meanwhile, the IDF further said, sharing a post on X, that sirens sound along Israel's coast.

Israel has also continued striking Hezbollah in Lebanon to counter the 'threats'. As the conflict heads towards escalation, all major countries have called for a ceasefire and hostage deal, while also stressing for a two-state solution as a means to achieve durable and sustainable peace in the region.

The Israel Defence Forces claimed on Saturday that they dismantled 250 meters of a terrorist tunnel in southern Lebanon.

IDF said that the tunnel was designated to be used in an invasion into Israel by Hezbollah's Radwan Forces.

Israel, in a strike on Saturday, killed Muhammad Hussein Ali al-Mahmoud, a senior Hamas leader responsible for directing terrorist activities in Judea and Samaria. *—ANI*

Republican candidate Donald Trump addresses a rally while Tesla CEO Elon Musk does a dance at the Butler Farm Show Pennsylvania event on Saturday *PHOTO: X*

Trump, Musk address rally at assassination attempt site

WASHINGTON DC, 6 OCT

Former US president Donald Trump on Saturday returned to Butler, a city in Pennsylvania where he narrowly escaped an assassination bid 12 weeks ago, and addressed thousands of his supporters in this key battleground state, urging them to elect him as the next president of the United States.

Joined by high-profile figures like Tesla owner Elon Musk and his running mate, Senator JD Vance, Trump made a passionate plea to "defeat" Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate in the 5 November presidential poll.

"We must stop her country-destroying regime, radical-left agenda once and for all. We cannot have it happen. So you must get out and you must vote," Trump said in Pennsylvania, which in this election cycle has emerged as a must-win situation for both candidates.

The former president said if elected, on the first day of his presidency, he would seal the border and stop the migrant invasion into the country. "We will begin the largest deportation operation in the history of the United States," he said.

"We had one president who could not climb a flight of stairs. Another who was fist pumping after getting shot. Fight, fight, fight. Blood coming down the face. There is no truer test than courage under fire. So who do you want representing America?" Musk asked the audience.

"With all the hatred they have spewed at President Trump, it was only a matter of time before somebody tried to kill him," Vance said. *—PTI*

30 PTI workers arrested in Lahore

LAHORE, 6 OCT

Over 30 supporters of jailed former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, including lawyers, were arrested after they managed to reach historic Minar-e-Pakistan premises on late Saturday night demanding the release of their leader, police said on Sunday.

Lahore police said it also booked over 200 PTI leaders and workers, including Khan, under terrorism charges.

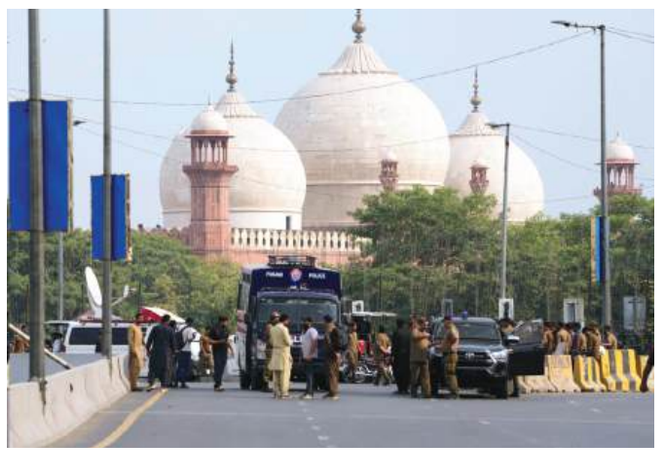
Meanwhile, mobile phone services remained suspended in the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad for the third day, continuing on Sunday amid the ongoing unrest amid Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest in the federal capital.

Punjab police officers continue to remain stationed at various locations throughout the garrison town, raising the level of security.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had claimed that 11 officers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police and 120 Afghan nationals were among the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters arrested in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, an urgent session of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly has been summoned on Sunday amid the chaos due to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) protest, ARY News reported.

The sitting was scheduled to be held on Monday but it has been fixed on Sunday after the arrests of activists in Islamabad. *—Agencies*



Lahore police said it also booked over 200 PTI leaders and workers, including party head Imran Khan, under terrorism charge *PHOTO: X*

Disappearance of KP CM sparks rumours of arrest

ISLAMABAD, 6 OCT

In addition to stoking rumours of his arrest, the sudden "disappearance" of fiery politician and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur raised numerous questions as PTI continued its demonstration in Islamabad for a second day on Saturday, Geo News reported.

In an interview with the Geo News program "Naya Pakistan" on Saturday, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif, the KP CM's information advisor, stated that CM Gandapur was escorted by his staff when Rangers men entered the KP House in Islamabad.

"We would have known if Ali Amin Gandapur departed for Peshawar," he said.

"No one has been able to contact the chief minister so far," he added.

Additionally, he stated that he spoke with the chief minister over a satellite phone around eight in the morning today. As of right now, his whereabouts remain unclear.

Saif responded to rumours that Gandapur would be arrested, stating that it would be a contempt of court since the KP CM had been granted bail by the Peshawar High Court. *—ANI*

Kidnappings surge in Pakistan's Punjab

Punjab, 6 Oct

Katcha gangsters in Pakistan kidnapped three individuals--two of whom are Hindus--during two separate incidents. In the last 30 days, 12 individuals have been kidnapped from various locations in Rahim Yar Khan. *—ANI*

PTI clarifies stance, says EAM not invited to protest

Peshawar, 6 Oct

PTI has distanced itself from a party leader's invitation to Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to join its protest. Jaishankar will attend the SCO-CHG meeting in Pakistan on 15 and 16 October. *—PTI*

BIDEN HITS OUT AT TRUMP OVER HURRICANE HELENE DISASTER FUNDS

WASHINGTON DC, 6 OCT

US President Joe Biden hit out at former President Donald Trump on Sunday over the alleged mismanagement of funds for the victims of Hurricane 'Helene' that struck the southeastern US in late September leaving hundreds of people dead and many injured.

Joe Biden *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

Criticising Trump further, Biden outlined publications from leading US media outlets that the former US President, during his administration had re-allocated funds for the migrants entering the US. Biden said, "Once again, Donald Trump is a liar. He's the guy who redirected relief funds as president." "We are moving heaven and earth to make sure that everyone affected by Hurricane Helene gets what they need," he further wrote. The death toll from Hurricane Helene inched up to 227 on Saturday as the grim task of recovering bodies continued more than a week after the monster storm ravaged the Southeast and killed people in six US states. *—Agencies*

1 dead as Russia strikes Ukraine

KYIV, 6 OCT

One person has died after Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defences had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

Another 25 drones disappeared from radar "presumably as a result of anti-aircraft missile defense," it said.

The barrage comes a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that he will present his "victory plan" at the October 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy presented his plan to US President Joe Biden in Washington last week. Its contents have not been made public but it is known that the plan includes Ukrainian membership in NATO and the provision of long-range missiles to strike inside Russia.

In a statement Sunday, the Ukrainian leader paid tribute to the country's troops, which he also described as "preparing (for) the next Ramstein." *—PTI*

Ukrainian servicemen examine fragments of a Russian military plane that was shot down in Kostyantynivka, Ukraine, Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

Int'l rescue teams in Bosnia after floods, landslides

SARAJEVO, 6 OCT

Rescue teams from Bosnia's neighbours and European Union countries on Sunday were joining efforts to clear the rubble and find people still missing from floods and landslides that devastated parts of the Balkan country.

Bosnia sought EU help after a heavy rainstorm overnight on Friday left entire areas under water and debris destroyed roads and bridges, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens. Authorities said Croatian rescuers have already arrived while a team from Serbia is expected to be deployed in the afternoon, followed by a Slovenian team with dogs. *—PTI*

IN SOLIDARITY

Thousands join pro-Palestinian rallies on Gaza war anniversary

ROME, 6 OCT

Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent demonstrators in Rome as tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets in major European cities and around the globe Saturday to call for a ceasefire as the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel approached.

In Rome, some dressed in black and with their faces covered threw stones, bottles and paper bombs at the police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons, eventually dispersing the crowd. At least 30 law enforcement officers and three demonstrators were injured in the clashes, local media reported.

In London, thousands marched through the capital to Downing Street amid a heavy police presence. The atmosphere was tense as pro-Palestinian protesters and counterdemonstrators, some holding Israeli flags, passed one another. Scuffles broke out as police officers pushed back activists trying to get past a cordon. At least 17 people were arrested on suspicion of public order offenses, supporting a proscribed organization and assault, London's Metropolitan Police said.

Several thousand protesters gathered peacefully at Paris' Republique Plaza in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators also gathered at New York's Times Square to call for a cease-fire. Italy believed that the timing of Saturday's rally in Rome risked the Oct. 7 attack being "glorified," local media reported. *—PTI*

A man bangs a drum during a march as pro-Palestinian supporters rally in Sydney, Australia on Sunday; People protest in support of Palestine in Toronto, Canada; A protester self-immolated himself outside the White House during a Pro-Palestinian rally *PHOTOS: PTI/X*

Govt: CBRI to advise airport operators on structures aspects

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The government has roped in the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) to advise airport operators on the structural aspects of airports, according to a senior official. The move comes against the backdrop of the collapse of a canopy at the old departure forecourt of Terminal 1 (T1) at the Delhi airport in June. During the same month, there were also similar incidents at Jabalpur and Rajkot airports. Currently, there are around 157 operational airports, heliports and waterdromes. The count is set to increase in the coming years. —*PTI*

Hindalco, JSW in race for copper mines in J'khand

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries and Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel are in the race for two copper mines in Jharkhand which will be put on sale this month, sources said. Both mines have a combined capacity of three million tonne per annum. Hindalco Industries and JSW Steel will be vying for state-owned Hindustan Copper Ltd's two copper mines in Jharkhand, sources said. The auction of both the mines is likely to take place in the month of October. While one of these blocks is virgin, the other one is closed for the past 20 years. The site inspection by various authorities of State Forest department has been completed. The move will boost domestic production of copper and reduce dependence. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

REI Expo saw ₹1,850 cr investments: IBA

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Investments worth Rs 1,850 crore have been committed in the biogas sector during the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2024, held from October 3-5 in Greater Noida, a top official of Indian Biogas Association (IBA) said. Kedia said a total of 47 exhibitors representing 10 biogas producing nations took part in the REI Expo. These investments, set to be realised over 2-3 years, reflect strong international interest, particularly from countries such as Germany, Sweden, and the UK, he said. Founded in 2011 and revamped in 2015, the IBA serves as a nationwide platform for bioenergy operators, manufacturers, and planners, working with international organisations The REI Expo, one of the largest renewable energy events in India, focuses on bioenergy, solar, wind, electric vehicles, and energy technologies. —*PTI*

NSE Clearing warns investors against fake communication

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

NSE Clearing Ltd, an arm of National Stock Exchange (NSE), on Sunday cautioned investors and clearing members against fake communication pertaining to unfreezing or making demand for funds directly from investors. These fake circulars and letters, featuring the unauthorized use of NSE Clearing's logo and letterhead, have been circulating, asking individual investors to make payments concerning their allegedly frozen investment accounts. The fraudulent circulars issued on NSE Clearing's behalf provide misleading links to unfreeze accounts, raising concerns that they are part of a scam designed to defraud unsuspecting individuals, the clearing firm said in a statement. NSE Clearing has clarified that it does not issue any such communications requesting funds or involvement in unfreezing accounts. Investors have been urged not to act on these deceptive letters or click on any suspicious links.—*PTI*

RBI rate decision, West Asia conflict to drive mkt

Analysts say trading activity of investors is also a key factor

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) interest rate decision, Middle East conflict and trading activity of foreign investors are the key factors that will dictate investors' sentiment in the market this week, analysts said.

Moreover, quarterly earnings from IT bellwether TCS, domestic macroeconomic data and movement in global oil benchmark Brent crude would also guide trends in the market.

Worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows were the major culprits behind the equity markets sharp fall last week.

"On the domestic front, the market's focus will be on the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which is scheduled to meet from 7 to 9 October, 2024, with the outcome to be announced on Wednesday," Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

The second quarter earnings season is kicking off with TCS, he said.

Market investors became poorer by Rs 16.26 lakh crore in five days of heavy correction in equities PHOTO: PTI

Last week, the BSE Sensex tanked 3,883.4 points, or 4.53 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 1,164.35 points, or 4.44 per cent.

Market investors became poorer by Rs 16.26 lakh crore in five days of heavy correction in equities.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by major domestic and global economic data such as India's interest rate decision, industrial production, US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting minutes, initial jobless claims and the UK GDP data," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

Investors will be closely monitoring developments in the geopolitical situation and its impact on crude prices, said Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. —*PTI*

STATUS-QUO ON INTEREST RATE LIKELY: EXPERTS

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

Reserve Bank is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate in its forthcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review later in the week as retail inflation is still a cause of concern, and there is a possibility of the Middle East crisis deteriorating further, impacting crude oil and commodity prices, say experts.

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The reconstituted panel, with three newly appointed external members, will commence its maiden meeting on Monday. MPC Chairman RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will reveal the outcome of the three-day discussion on Wednesday —*PTI*

'RISE IN CRUDE OIL'

FPIs withdraw ₹ 27,142 cr amid war tensions

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

PHOTO: PTI

Foreign investors turned net sellers in October, offloading shares worth Rs 27,142 crore in just the first three days of October due to intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and improved performance of Chinese markets.

The outflow came after FPI investment reached a nine-month high of Rs 57,724 crore in September.

Since June, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have consistently bought equities after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, global factors like geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

According to the data, FPIs made a net withdrawal of Rs 27,142 crore from equities between October 1 and 4, with October 2 being a trading holiday.

In the debt markets, FPIs pulled out 900 crore through the General Limit and invested Rs 190 crore via Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review. So far this year, FPIs Invested Rs 73,468 crore in equities and Rs 1.09 lakh crore in the debt market. —*PTI*

Adani starts biggest hydrogen blending plan

Firm has started producing green hydrogen by using renewable energy sources like wind or solar power PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Adani group has started blending green hydrogen in natural gas that is supplied to households for cooking purposes in parts of Ahmedabad, with a view to cut emissions and meet net-zero targets.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, the group's city gas joint venture with French energy giant TotalEnergies, has started blending 2.2-2.3 per cent of green hydrogen in piped natural gas supplies in Shantigram in Ahmedabad, the firm said in a post on LinkedIn.

Hydrogen produced through clean pathways is injected into natural gas pipelines, and the resulting blends are used to generate heat and power with lower emissions than using natural gas alone.

The firm has started producing green hydrogen by using renewable energy sources like wind or solar power, to split water into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called electrolysis. This hydrogen is blended in natural gas that is currently piped to households for cooking purposes and industries.

Presently, state-owned power generator NTPC supplies green hydrogen blended natural gas to households in Kawas in Surat district, Gujarat.

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd is also doing a small pilot in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to supply CNG that has been doped with grey hydrogen. —*PTI*

MCAP OF 9 OF TOP 10 FIRMS ERODES RS 4.74 LAKH CR

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together lost a whopping Rs 4,74,906.18 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank taking the steepest hit, in line with weak trends in equities.

Markets faced heavy drubbing last week amid worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows. In a holiday-shortened week, the BSE benchmark plummeted 3,883.4 points, or 4.53 per cent.

The valuation of Reliance Industries declined Rs 1,88,479.36 crore to Rs 18,76,718.24 crore.

HDFC Bank's market valuation slumped Rs 72,919.58 crore to Rs 12,64,267.35 crore.

Bharti Airtel's valuation plunged Rs 53,800.31 crore to Rs 9,34,104.32 crore and that of ICICI Bank tumbled Rs 47,461.13 crore to Rs 8,73,059.59 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation went lower by Rs 5,399.39 crore to Rs 7,10,934.59 crore.

However, the mcap of Infosys climbed Rs 4,629.64 crore to Rs 7,96,527.08 crore.

Reliance Industries retained the title of the most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and LIC. —*PTI*

₹17,600 CRORE BOOST

Reliance's fundraising to drive future growth plans

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

Equipped with Rs 17,600 crore fundraising and a zero-debt status, Anil Ambani's Reliance Group companies - Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd - are poised to execute their growth strategies, according to officials.

In the past two weeks, both companies have announced raising Rs 4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares and Rs 7,100 crore from renowned global investment fund Varde Partners through equity-linked long-term FCCBs, having a long maturity period of 10 years and low interest rate of 5 per cent.

An additional Rs 6,000 crore will be raised through qualified institutional placement (QIP), with Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure each aiming for Rs 3,000 crore.

With resolutions in place, shareholder approvals are expected by the end of the month, officials said.

PHOTO: ANI

A senior official of the group stated that Reliance Group's strategy of raising capital through equity or equity-linked long-term bonds will offer the group companies essential growth capital for their expansion plans.

Even with a conservative debt-to-equity ratio of 70:30, raising over Rs 17,000 crore in equity or equity-linked bonds will provide the group companies with a total investment outlay of Rs 50,000 crore for their future business plans over the next few years.

The fundraising will also boost the net worth of both companies to around Rs 25,000 crore. —*PTI*

GOVT ASKS MAJOR STEEL PLAYERS TO USE IRON ORE

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

To increase the usage of available raw materials, the Ministry of Steel has directed integrated steel players to make use of iron ore fines in steel making after its beneficiation. As per sources, the ministry has also suggested that players look at options like acquiring coking coal mines abroad.

This is aimed at increasing the availability of raw materials at competitive prices, they said. Iron ore and coking coal are the two key raw materials used for manufacturing steel through blast furnace route. While iron ore is available in abundance, for coking coal, India remains heavily dependent on imports.

Major players use only high grade ore (lumps), with 65 per cent and above iron content, to make steel through BF (blast furnace). Fines are low grade ore having iron content or 64 per cent or less. Beneficiation of low grade ore adds to the overall cost of production. —*PTI*

'AMUL ready to enter EU mkt after US'

JAMSHEDPUR, 6 OCT

Managing Director of AMUL and Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) Jayen Mehta said AMUL's recently launched milk in US has been "highly successful" and they are now ready to enter the European market, which would mark a historic moment for the brand.

Delivering the 11th Dr Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on "AMUL Model: Transforming Lives of Million" organised by a private business management institute here on Saturday, Mehta said "India is now the largest milk producer in the world and is set to produce one-third of the world's total milk in the coming years", XLRI in a statement said.

Jayen Mehta PHOTO: ANI

- India is now largest milk producer in the world and will produce one-third of world's total milk

To stay relevant, Amul focuses on offering protein-rich, organic, and chemical-free products that customers trust, while continuously expanding their capacity and infrastructure, he said while praising the ecosystem developed by Dr Kurien, founder of AMUL.

Amul collects over 310 lakh litres of milk daily, with 107 dairy plants across India and over 50 products, Mehta said, adding that 22 billion packs are sold annually.

Amul has a turnover of Rs 80,000 crore and is now ranked as the strongest dairy and food brand globally, owned by 36 lakh farmers, he said. —*PTI*

Need clear laws, standard rules to protect workers: GTRI

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The government needs to focus on formulating clear laws, and standard operating procedures to protect workers and interests of companies to foster a more stable industrial environment in the country, economic think tank GTRI has suggested.

It also said that to reduce industrial strikes, India must prioritize protecting workers' rights while maintaining industrial stability and there is an urgent need to take steps to help address labour disputes before they escalate into strikes.

"Industrial strikes have led to factory closures and job losses in India for decades," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding that the strike by over 1,000 workers at Samsung's Sriperumbudur factory in Tamil Nadu since September 9 is not an isolated event.

PHOTO: PTI

He suggested seven steps that includes enforcement of labour laws, setting up mediation systems, union-management dialogue, legal framework for labour compliance, collaboration between centre and states on the subject, and intelligence to detect disruptions.

It said that creating efficient mediation and arbitration systems would allow disputes to be resolved quickly, preventing them from escalating into large-scale strikes.

These systems could be managed by independent bodies to ensure fairness.

It added that unions should be involved in discussions on wages and worker welfare but should not interfere with individual company operations.

Citing Chinese examples, he said China's single trade union, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), works closely with the government to maanage worker grievances, preventing widespread unrest. —*PTI*

'2 NEW PUBLIC ISSUES'

IPO market braces for brief slowdown

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

After a wave of initial public offerings (IPOs) in recent weeks, the primary market will experience a brief slowdown, with only two new public issues scheduled for the next week, aiming to raise Rs 365 crore.

There were 12 IPOs in the mainboard segment and 40 in the SME (small and medium enterprise) segment in September.

IPOs scheduled for next week, beginning 7 October, are Garuda Construction and Engineering on the main board and Shiv Texchem on the SME segment.

There were 12 IPOs in the mainboard segment and 40 in the SME in September PHOTO: FREEPIK

Garuda Construction is seeking to raise Rs 264 crore, and Shiv Texchem is aiming for over Rs 101 crore through their respective IPOs available for public subscription during October 8-10.

The stock market has seen a significant correction in the equity market since the start of October amid intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran.

If the offering proceeds as planned, it will surpass Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) public offering of Rs 21,000 crore, becoming the largest IPO in India's history.

Moreover, 63 companies have already mobilised around Rs 64,000 crore via mainboard, marking a 29 per cent increase from Rs 49,436 crore collected by 57 firms through the route in 2023. —*PTI*

SBI to increase headcount by 10,000 this fiscal

NEW DELHI, 6 OCT

The country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) intends to recruit about 10,000 new employees during the current financial year to meet its general banking requirement and foster its technical prowess. The bank has invested significantly in technology to provide seamless customer service as well as to strengthen the resilience of its digital channels.

We are strengthening our workforce, both on the technology side as well as on the general banking side. We have recently announced around 1,500 technology people recruitment both at the entry level and slightly at the higher level," SBI Chairman C S Setty told PTI in an interview.

The total staff strength of the bank stood at 2,32,296 as of March 2024. Of this, 1,10,116 officers were on the rolls of the bank at the end of last fiscal. Asked about capacity building, Setty said, it is continuous exercise and the bank undertakes reskilling and upskilling of the existing employees to meet the emerging needs of customers.

SBI has a network of 22,542 branches across the country as of March 2024. Apart from a vast branch network, SBI reaches its customers through 65,000 ATMs and 85,000 business correspondents. —*PTI*

PHOTO: @INDIANPOLOASSOCIATION

Indian Army team beats US Military in arena polo match

SACRAMENTO, 6 OCT

The Indian Army arena polo team delivered a gritty performance, defeating the US Military in a thrilling test match, marking their first international engagement since 2019.The Indian team, comprising Prithvi Singh, Yatinder Kumar, Mrityunjay Singh, and RK Gautam, won 13-10 at the Lakeside Polo Club near here.Mrityunjay, despite sustaining an injury during the second chukker, continued to compete until the fourth chukker, before being substituted by Gautam.Arena polo, while quite similar to the outdoor version is played on 300 feet by 150 feet field, enclosed by a wall of four or more feet in height. The regular polo is played on a 10-acre field with just the boundary lines and no walls.A normal game of polo consists of four chukkas of seven-and-a-half minutes each. —*PTI*

England aims to challenge struggling Pakistan

MULTAN, 6 OCT

England is aiming to challenge struggling Pakistan with a new-look pace attack in the opening test of a three-match series, starting in the searing heat of Multan on Monday.Fast bowler Brydon Carse will make his test debut with Gus Atkinson set to play his first overseas test after his impressive home season against the West Indies and Sri Lanka.All-rounder Chris Woakes was penciled into the starting XI after Ben Stokes was ruled out for the fourth successive test match due to ongoing rehabilitation on his injured hamstring. Woakes will be playing his first match in two-and-a-half years and it will be his first test in Asia since 2016.—*PTI*

Diksha misses cut, team finishes 12th at Aramco Series

LONDON, 6 OCT

India's Diksha Dagar endured another disappointing day with a four-over 77 to miss the cut at the Aramco Team Series. After a 76 in the first round, the Indian needed a low round to cut, but it just did not happen as she had only one birdie against five bogeys, four of which were on the backstretch of the course. Diksha's team also finished 12th and her teammates were Moa Folke, Xinyu Cao, and Ding. The highlight was Folke pulling off a hole-in-one on the Par-3 eighth hole. In the Individual competition, China's Xiyu Lin and France's Celine Boutier were tied at the top of the leaderboard on 12-under-par.—*PTI*

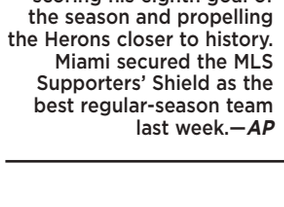


PHOTO: @LEOMESSI

Messi-led Inter Miami 1 win from MLS points record

MIAMI, 6 OCT

Inter Miami stands just one victory away from breaking the record for most points earned in a single Major League Soccer regular season after a last-minute 1-0 win over Toronto FC on Saturday at BMO Field. Suárez, Lionel Messi, and Sergio Busquets only entered the game late in the second half but still managed to make a positive impact. Forward Leonardo Campana broke the draw in the 93rd minute of the match when finding the back of the net off of a pass from teammate Luis Suárez, scoring his eighth goal of the season and propelling the Herons closer to history. Miami secured the MLS Supporters' Shield as the best regular-season team last week.—*AP*

India beat Pakistan by 6 wickets

Team India registered its first win of the Women's T20 World Cup

DUBAI, 6 OCT

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's years of experience saved India from blushes as they huffed and puffed to a six-wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan, keeping their semi-final hopes alive in the Women's T20 World Cup, here Sunday.

Indian batters made heavy weather of a paltry 106-run target as it required a 24-ball-29 from their experienced skipper to eke out the crucial win.

Harmanpreet retired hurt when two runs were required for victory. Sajana Sajeevan, playing her first game, finished it off with a boundary.

The defensive approach by opener Shefali Verma (32 off 35 balls) and new No. 3 Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 28 balls) meant that India could not boost their Net Run Rate which could prove very costly in the larger context of making it to the last-four stage.

Despite the victory, India's NRR is currently -1.217 and they remain below Pakistan, who are in third place with an NRR of -0.555.

The chase was not exactly a cakewalk as Smriti Mandhana (7 off 16 balls) was out early while Shafali and Jemimah concentrated on taking singles.

Despite a negative net run rate of -2.90, there was no intent shown by the Indian batters to surpass the paltry target in a good time.

Shafali could hit only three shots to the fence in her 35-ball knock and she increased the pressure on the batting unit with the below-par effort.

As far as Jemimah was concerned, power isn't diminutive Mumbaikar's forte as she is more of a batter who relies on timing and ability to find gaps.

Once Fatima removed both Jemimah and Richa Ghosh (0) off successive deliveries, the onus was on Harmanpreet to take the team past home.

Earlier, the Indian bowling unit fired in unison against a clueless Pakistan, restricting the arch-rivals to a lowly 105 for 8.

Having conceded 160 against New Zealand on a slow track under lights in their opener, the Indian bowlers read the pitch well, and more importantly, took the pace off deliveries to make stroke-making all the more difficult.

Such was their control that Indian bowlers were able to deliver 58 dot balls.

Renuka bowled a tight first over and her inswinger had Gull Feroza (0) bowled through the gate.

Deepti, who gave a much better account of herself, albeit against an inferior batting lineup, decreased the pace of her deliveries and also flighted a few.

Pakistan managed only 29 for 2 in the powerplay and the Indian bowlers increased their stranglehold on the opposition batters with only Nida Dar's 28 providing some resistance to take the team past the 100-run mark.

Brief Scores:

Pakistan: 105/8 in 20 overs (Nida Dar 28; Shreyanka Patil 2/12, Arundhati Reddy 3/19).

India: 106/4 in 18.5 overs (Shafali Verma 32, Harmanpreet Kaur retired hurt 29; Fatima Sana 2/23).

—*PTI*

Renuka Singh made the breakthrough for India in the first over of their T20 World Cup match against India in Dubai *PHOTO: PTI*

TODAY'S MATCH

■ England vs SA
Time: 7.30 pm

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Arshdeep Singh 3/14 *PHOTO: PTI*

INDIA BOWL OUT B'DESH FOR 127 IN FIRST T20

GWALIOR, 6 OCT

India bowled out Bangladesh for 127 in the first T20 International of the three-match series here on Sunday.

Asked to bat first, Bangladesh were in early trouble at 14 for two with left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh (3/14) removing both openers Litton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon cheaply. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto made 27 off 25 balls and Mehidy Hasan Miraz contributed 35 in 32 deliveries.

Varun Chakravarthy (3/31), Mayank Yadav (1/21), and Washington Sundar (1/12) picked up wickets in the middle overs to keep India in total control of the game. Hardik Pandya too chipped in with a wicket towards the end.

Brief scores:

Bangladesh: 127 all out in 19.5 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 27, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 35 not out; Arshdeep Singh 3/14, Varun Chakravarthy 3/31).

—*PTI*

SHANGHAI MASTERS

Sinner rallies past Tomas Martin

SHANGHAI, 6 OCT

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner overcame a one-set deficit to rally to a 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2 win against Tomas Martin Etcheverry at the Shanghai Masters on Sunday.

A night after winning his 250th career match with a straight-sets victory, the 23-year-old Italian faced a much sterner third-round examination against the No. 37-ranked Argentine under the roof inside Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena that hosted play due to rain.

Sinner will next play either No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton, who beat the Italian here last year, or Roberto Carballes Baena of Spain.

Etcheverry produced the shot of the night with a stunning drop volley to bring up set point in the first set tie-break, which he converted to take the lead.

Jannik Sinner *PHOTO: @JANNIKSIN*

Sinner began to better find his range in the second and after trading breaks midway through the set, the Italian found another opportunity to level the match.

The momentum was all with Sinner in the third as he broke Etcheverry twice more to advance in 2 hours, 39 minutes.

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won the China Open on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, plays his third-round match against Chinese player, Wu Yibing. —*AP*

Medvedev reach last 16

World No. 5 five Daniil Medvedev booked his place in the last 16 of the Shanghai Masters Sunday, overcoming tenacious Italian Matteo Arnaldi 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. Medvedev broke early in the first set but 36th-ranked Arnaldi kept his cool to break back in the sixth game on an unforced error from the Russian. Arnaldi broke again in the 12th game after Medvedev hit long. Second set and he was slapped with two code violations and a point.

Japanese GP: Bagnaia holds off Martin

FRANCE, 6 OCT

Twice MotoGP champion Francesco Bagnaia won the Japanese Grand Prix in Motegi on Sunday to complete a weekend double and cut his gap to rival Jorge Martin at the top of the world championship down to 10 points.

The Ducati rider, who qualified in second after dominating practice and winning Saturday's sprint, kept Martin at bay for 20 laps to clinch an eighth win of the season for the first time in his career.

Martin's second-place finish moved him up to 392 points while Bagnaia is second on 382, with four races left to go in the season.

"I feel super happy. We managed to gain 11 points during this weekend," said Bagnaia, whose win was the 900th by an Italian in MotoGP history.

The race began in overcast conditions at Motegi's Twin Ring circuit, with pole-sitter Pedro Acosta overtaken before the first turn of the first lap as Bagnaia darted past him into the lead.

Championship leader Martin (Pramac Racing) began in the fourth row after crashing during qualifying but had a spectacular opening lap as he launched himself off the line and quickly moved up from 11th to 4th. —*AP*

CHINA OPEN

Coco Gauff of the United States holding the trophy after defeating Karolina Muchova of Czech Republic in the women's singles final match at the China Open tennis tournament at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Kartik top Indian at 18th, Ding wins AAC title Japan

GOTEMBA, 6 OCT

Young golfer Kartik Singh emerged as the top Indian at the 18th position at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship here on Sunday.

The 14-year-old, who last year became the youngest ever to cut the AAC, shot rounds of 71-67-72-70 for an even-par 280.

The other two Indians, who were cut, played well in the final round.

Krishnav Nikhil Chopra (68-77-74-67) shot his best of 3-under 67 and Rakshit Dahiya (75, 71, 70, 70) carded an even-par 70 for the second straight round. The duo finished 6-over and were Tied-37th.

All of them came back in the morning to finish their third round – Kartik had nine holes left, while the other two had 11 and 12 holes left. Despite the long day at the heavy and rain-soaked Taiheiyo Golf Club, they had a good final day.

Kartik said, "I parred the entire back nine of the third round, where I began bogey-bogey and then had 16 pars. In the fourth, my driver did not work well and I was saved by my short game.—*PTI*

Kartik Singh

Vinicius, Valverde shine as Real blanks Villarreal

MADRID, 6 OCT

Federico Valverde and Vinicius Jr were on the scoresheet as Real Madrid cruises past Villarreal 2-0 in their La Liga 2024-25 match at the Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid on Sunday.

Real took the lead in the 14th minute with a deflected long-range shot by Valverde following a Luka Modric corner.

The Uruguayan's drive from distance deflected off Villarreal playmaker Alex Baena and arced beyond the reach of goalkeeper Diego Conde

The visitors appealed for a penalty early in the second half when Aurelien Tchouameni, playing at center-back, pulled down Thierno Barry, but the French striker was offside.

Brazilian forward Vinicius Jr doubled Los Blancos' advantage with an absolute screamer into the top corner from outside the box in the 73rd.

Despite the win, the night became sour for the defending La Liga champion as its Spanish right-back Dani Carvajal was stretchered off during the added time of the second half with a knee injury. The Euro 2024 winner collided with Jeremy Pino and was in visible discomfort.

Federico Valverde

Real is currently second in the standings, level with Barcelona on 21 points before the league leader visits 11th-placed Alaves on Sunday.

With this defeat, Villarreal stays at third with 17 points from nine matches. —*AP*

Monaco Takes Top Spot

Monaco went top of the Ligue 1 table on Saturday with a 2-1 win away to Rennes, moving three points ahead of reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain. Goals from Thilo Kehrer and Folarin Balogun sent the principality side to 19 points. PSG, who are on 16 with a better goal difference, will have the chance to overtake them when they play Nice on Sunday. "After seven games, we have 19 points, that's the reality and the truth.

SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP

Amir to lead Indian Jr hockey team

BENGALURU, 6 OCT

Amir Ali has been named captain, with Rohit as his deputy, in the 18-member junior hockey squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that will mark the first assignment for head coach PR Sreejesh in Malaysia from 19 October.

India will begin their campaign against Japan on 19 October, followed by matches against Great Britain (October 20), hosts Malaysia (Oct 22), Australia (Oct 23) and New Zealand (Oct 25).

The top two teams will make the final slated for 26 October.

Defender Amir Ali and forward Gurjot Singh were part of the senior team that defended their title at the Asian Champions Trophy in Moqi, China.

Amir seamlessly filled in for the injured defender Sanjay during the tournament, while Gurjot led the forward line, showcasing immense potential.

Indian hockey team defender Amir Ali *PHOTO: HOCKEY INDIA / X*

"The Sultan of Johor Cup is an important tournament in our calendar as always. The tournament will serve as a litmus test for the team ahead of the Men's Junior Asia Cup Muscat 2024 in November this year," captain Ali stated in a Hockey India release.

"All the players are excited to play some intense hockey matches in Malaysia."

Vice -captain Rohit expressed enthusiasm at being coached by Sreejesh, saying, "We have an Indian hockey legend taking charge of the team, the whole team is raring to go. PR Sreejesh is one of the most experienced players to play for India, and we look forward to making him proud in our first tournament.

"The mood in the camp has been excellent and we want to capitalize on this by showcasing our potential at the Sultan of Johor Cup."

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Bikramjit Singh, Ali Khan

Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Talem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Sukhvinder, Anmol Ekka, Rohit (VC)

Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Chandan Yadav

Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Konain Dad.

—*PTI*

Indian women's team bags silver in Asia Rugby

MUMBAI, 6 OCT

Indian women's rugby team clinched a silver after going down to the Philippines 5-7 in the final of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy in Kathmandu.

The Shikha Yadav-led side reached the summit clash after thrashing Guam 24-7 in the semifinal to top the table.

In the league round, India had stamped their authority, outclassing Sri Lanka 29–10 and Indonesia 17-10. The tournament was held on Friday and Saturday.

Expressing pride in the team's silver medal performance, Indian skipper Shikha said they would strive for gold in future competitions, while also thanking their coach Waisale Serevi, and the support staff.

"Winning the silver again is special, but the team is eager to continue the work that each player has been putting in, to convert the colour of this medal to gold," Shikha said in a release.

Indian women's rugby team *PHOTO: X/RUGBY INDIA*

"I am extremely proud of the way the team has played against formidable sides and has showcased great character on a stage as big as this.

"This is the most important event of the year for the team and we will come home knowing that we gave it our absolute best. —*PTI*